

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

HP TUNERS, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company, Plaintiff,
vs.
KEVIN SYKES-BONNETT and SYKED ECU TUNING INCORPORATED, a Washington corporation, Defendants.

) NO. 3:17-cv-05760-JRC
)
) **EMERGENCY MOTION FOR**
) **TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER**
) **AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND**
) **CONSOLIDATED MEMORANDUM IN**
) **SUPPORT**
)
) **NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:**
) **October 12, 2017**
)
) **ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED**

Plaintiffs HP TUNERS, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company (“HPT”), brings this Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 65(b) against Defendants KEVIN SYKES-BONNETT and SYKED ECU TUNING INCORPORATED (collectively, “Sykes-Bonnett” or “Defendants”). In support thereof, HPT states as follows:

INTRODUCTION

HPT seeks to restrain and enjoin Defendants as follows:

1. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, releasing competitive products or software to HPT;

1 2. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
2 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, selling any competitive
3 products or software to HPT;

4 3. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
5 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, releasing any products
6 or services using HPT's proprietary code to any third party;

7 4. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
8 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, selling any products or
9 services using HPT's proprietary code to any third party;

10 5. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
11 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, releasing any products
12 or software that is based on or derived from HPT's software or products;

13 6. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
14 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, selling any products or
15 software that is based on or derived from HPT's software or products;

16 7. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
17 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, be immediately
18 restrained from, directly or indirectly, exhibiting at the 2017 SEMA Show in Las Vegas, Nevada
19 from October 31, 2017 to November 3, 2017; and

20 8. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
21 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, engaging in any
22 activities related to the planning, design, development, coding or creation of any software or
23

1 products that in any way uses, relies upon, is based on or discloses any of HPT's confidential,
2 proprietary or trade secret information, including but not limited to source code.

3 HPT requests that the Court expedite consideration of this Motion to avoid irreparable
4 harm to HPT.

5 The relief requested is a temporary restraining order including the eight provisions stated
6 above, issued temporarily until such time as the Court may hear HPT's Motion for Preliminary
7 Injunction. HPT also requests that the Court issue an order to show cause as to why the
8 requested preliminary injunction should not issue.
9

10 Counsel for Defendants has not yet appeared. However, Defendants have been advised
11 of this filing, and have been provided with a copy by electronic mail.

12 While discussed in more detail in the Memorandum of Points and Authorities that
13 follows, the legal authority in support of the requested relief is Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b) and Local
14 Rule 65. The Motion will also be based on the Verified Complaint which was filed as well as the
15 Declaration of Keith Prociuk, which is attached as Exhibit 1, and such oral argument as the Court
16 may allow.

17 **STATEMENT OF RELEVANT FACTS**

18 1. HPT is a niche business, which provides complete, cost effective automotive
19 tuning and data acquisition solutions for enthusiasts and professional shops.

20 2. HPT's business includes but is not limited to computer hardware and software
21 designed for use in custom and/or pre-programmed engine and transmission tuning and
22 calibration applications for automobiles, trucks and other types of vehicles (including but not
23 limited to ATV's, snowmobiles and watercraft) (the "HP Tuners Business").
24

1 3. HPT has expended significant time, money and resources to develop the HP
2 Tuners Business, and HPT has created methods of business, strategies, programs and
3 technologies which did not exist in the industry prior to HPT's development of the HP Tuners
4 Business.

5 4. HPT conducts business nationwide. Over the years, HPT has invested a
6 great deal of time and money in developing its proprietary products and source code,
7 and in building and growing the HP Tuners Business.

8 5. In order for HPT to gain a competitive advantage in the industry, it has cultivated,
9 nurtured and maintained an extensive network of vendors, resellers and customers to which
10 HPT provides its products and offerings. HPT's network of vendors, resellers and
11 customers is expansive and relies on HPT to ensure that only authorized, authentic products
12 and offerings are available in the marketplace.

14 6. HPT invests a substantial amount of money and other resources in developing and
15 maintaining its network of vendors, reseller and customers.

16 7. HPT prides itself in catering to the needs of its vendors, resellers and
17 customers and providing authorized, authentic and functional products and offerings, and
18 the most competitive pricing in the industry.

19 8. HPT works diligently to create new products and offerings and to quickly
20 and adeptly match its vendors, resellers and customers' needs and requests.

22 9. HPT is constantly working to develop its products, source code and offerings, and
23 has devoted substantial time, money and resources to protect its confidential and proprietary
24 information, and to avoid efforts by third parties to pirate HPT's products and offerings.

1 10. As a result of HPT's reputation, exceptional service, and diligent development
2 of products and offerings, HPT has developed long-standing relationships with many of its
3 vendors, resellers and customers.

4 11. HPT's confidential and proprietary software, source code, license key
5 generator and offerings have been developed and extensively refined by HPT at a
6 substantial cost and effort and constitute confidential information and valuable trade
7 secrets of HPT (collectively, the "Confidential Information").

8 12. HPT derives economic value from the fact that its Confidential Information
9 is not known outside of HPT's business and is not available through any public records and
10 information sources. HPT's Confidential Information cannot be independently developed by
11 its competitors without great effort and expense.

12 13. Recognizing the economic value that it derives from its Confidential
13 Information, as well as the potential value of this information to its competitors, HPT
14 requires that its Confidential Information be kept strictly confidential by its employees and
15 restricts access to this information. HPT has taken substantial steps and security measures to
16 protect the confidentiality of its Confidential Information, including but not limited to the
17 following:

- 18 a) HPT protects access to its Confidential Information through computer
19 passwords;
- 20 b) HPT protects to its Confidential Information through hard drive encryption
21 on all employee's computers;
- 22 c) HPT protects access to its Confidential Information through sophisticated
23 firewalls;

- 1 d) HPT protects distribution of Confidential Information through non-
- 2 compete and non-disclosure agreements;
- 3 e) HPT limits the number of employees having access to its Confidential
- 4 Information.
- 5 f) Employees are given access to HPT's Confidential
- 6 Information on a "need to know" basis;
- 7 g) HPT does not give access to its Confidential Information to non-
- 8 employees;
- 9 h) HPT employees are forbidden from copying, transferring or otherwise
- 10 duplicating any of HPT's Confidential Information; and
- 11 i) HPT requires each employee to return to HPT all Confidential Information
- 12 when the employee leaves HPT's employ.

14 14. Furthermore, HPT undertook reasonable measures to maintain the secrecy of its
15 proprietary products, source code, software and offerings, including but not limited to entering
16 into licensing agreements with protective clauses and installing security measures to prevent
17 others from obtaining access and pirating HPT's confidential and proprietary products, source
18 code, software and offerings.

19 15. On or about September 28, 2015, Sykes-Bonnett was issued an HPT Interface
20 with eight (8) credits.

22 16. In connection with the HPT Interface issued to Sykes-Bonnett and Sykes-
23 Bonnett's use of HPT's software, Sykes-Bonnett entered into an End User License Agreement
24 ("EULA") with HPT on or about September 28, 2015. (A copy of the EULA is attached to the
25 Complaint as Exhibit A).

1 17. The EULA provided, in pertinent part:

2 You may not create a derivative work, reverse engineer, decompile, or
3 disassemble the SOFTWARE PRODUCT, except and only to the extent
4 that such activity is expressly permitted by applicable law notwithstanding
5 this limitation

6 (See Exhibit A).

7 18. On or about October 11, 2016, in violation of the EULA, Sykes-Bonnett provides
8 a screenshot to Eric Brooks, an HPT employee, showing a feature obtained by Sykes-Bonnett
9 through reverse engineering and hacking the software. (A copy of the screenshot is attached as
10 Exhibit B to the Complaint).

12 19. In same screenshot, Sykes-Bonnett hints at having reverse engineered the HPT
13 software and intent to create licensing defeat software. (*See Exhibit B to Complaint*)

14 20. Thereafter, on or November 3, 2016, Sykes-Bonnett threatens to make HPT
15 software with licensing defeated to the public, and admits to hacking Diablo (an HPT
16 competitor) handheld devices. (A copy of the screenshot is attached as Exhibit C to the
17 Complaint).

18 21. On the same day, Sykes-Bonnett admits to copying SCT's intellectual property
19 and using it in its own software (an HPT competitor) intellectual property and using in own
20 software. (A copy of the screenshot is attached as Exhibit D to the Complaint). Sykes-Bonnett
21 further threatens to copy HPT's intellectual property. (See Exhibit D to the Complaint).

23 22. On November 3, 2016, Sykes-Bonnett further admits to "breaking a few things to
24 get what Keith [Prociuk, who is a current owner] and Ken [Cannata, who is a former owner]

1 promised," which is a reference to defeating HPT's software licensing for his own benefit. (A
 2 copy of the screenshot is attached as Exhibit E to the Complaint).

3 23. In a message also dated November 3, 2016 to Eric Brooks, Sykes-Bonnett admits
 4 to having "wasted alot [sic] of time reversing [HPT] shit." (A copy of the message is attached as
 5 Exhibit F to the Complaint).

6 24. On March 16, 2017, Sykes-Bonnett posts a message concerning the availability of
 7 a stolen/hacked HPT interface for sale on a Facebook automotive group. (A copy of the
 8 Facebook post is attached as Exhibit L to the Complaint).

9 25. On March 28, 2017, in a message to Eric Brooks, Sykes-Bonnett defends his sale
 10 of a stolen/cloned HPT interface and contends that HPT "stole a lot of shit in the beginning of
 11 HPT and closed the forum and went corp." (A copy of the March 28, 2017 message is attached
 12 as Exhibit M to the Complaint).

13 26. On April 7, 2017, Sykes-Bonnett posts a screenshot on Facebook of his alleged
 14 software showing a listing of copied HPT parameters. (A copy of the Facebook post is attached
 15 as Exhibit N to the Complaint).

16 27. On April 8, 2017 at 7:26 a.m., one of Sykes-Bonnett's Facebook "friends",
 17 Morgan Rickard comments "you really don't like HP Tuners lmao." (See Exhibit N to the
 18 Complaint).

19 28. On April 8, 2017 at 5:06 p.m., Sykes-Bonnett responds as follows: "#fuckhpt
 20 Keith, and ken are 2 of the 3 owners and are both bitches. Want to buy shit and pay nothing for
 21 it. Fuck them all. I hope they go broke." (See Exhibit N to the Complaint).

22 29. On September 25, 2017, on a telephone conference with Mr. Prociuk, Sykes-
 23 Bonnett specifically advised Mr. Prociuk that Defendants are developing competing products and

1 software to HPT and that Defendants are releasing the competitive products and software to the
 2 public at the SEMA Show in Las Vegas beginning on October 31, 2017. (See Declaration of
 3 Keith Prociuk attached hereto as Exhibit 1).

4 30. Defendants posted a YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/nGK4o0lxYq0?t=100>
 5 which contained a licensing screen. A screenshot of the licensing screen shows Defendants have
 6 copied HPT virtually word for word. (See Exhibit 1-A to the Declaration attached as Exhibit 1).
 7

8 31. Likewise, Exhibit H to the Complaint shows a listing of exact HPT parameter
 9 names (character per character, including abbreviations) showcased in Defendants' own
 10 software. Attached as Exhibit 1-B to the Declaration of Keith Prociuk is an enlarged screenshot.
 11 Every single parameter in the list to the left is copied from HPT software. Attached as Exhibit 1-
 12 C to the Declaration of Keith Prociuk is also a sample of a few of these parameters shown in
 13 HPT software. The shown sample includes "Max Torque Timing Mult", "Max Torque Timing
 14 EGR adder", and "Max Torque Timing Alcohol Adder" – which are seen in Defendants'
 15 software.

16 32. Defendants' own documents and information demonstrate that Defendants have
 17 misappropriated HPT's confidential, proprietary and trade secret information and are
 18 incorporating it into their own products and software.
 19

ARGUMENT

THE MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND PRELIMINARY

INJUNCTION SHOULD BE GRANTED.

23 A. LEGAL STANDARDS

24 A court has the discretion to grant injunctive relief when a plaintiff establishes that it is
 25 likely to succeed on the merits, it is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of the

1 preliminary relief, the balance of equities tips in his favor, and an injunction is in the public
 2 interest. *All. For The Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1131 (9th Cir. 2011), quoting
 3 *Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008); *Johnson v. Couturier*, 572 F.3d
 4 1067, 1078 (9th Cir. 2009), also quoting *Winter*.

5 Alternatively, the Ninth Circuit has authorized a sliding scale approach where, even if the
 6 plaintiff has not established that it is likely to succeed on the merits, a court may nevertheless
 7 grant the requested relief if the plaintiff raises “serious questions going to the merits … and the
 8 balance of hardships tips sharply in [plaintiff’s] favor.” *Cottrell*, 632 F.3d at 1131-32, quoting
 9 *Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc. v. City of L.A.*, 340 F.3d 810, 813 (9th Cir. 2003).

10 If a defendant claims to have an affirmative defense, once the plaintiff establishes
 11 likelihood of success on the merits, it is the defendant’s burden to show it is likely to succeed on
 12 its affirmative defense. *Perfect 10, Inc. v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, 508 F.3d 1146, 1158 (9th Cir.
 13 2007).

14

B. HPT IS LIKELY TO SUCCEED ON THE MERITS, HPT IS LIKELY TO
SUFFER IRREPARABLE HARM IN THE ABSENCE OF THE
REQUESTED RELIEF AND THERE IS NO PREJUDICE TO
DEFENDANTS IN GRANTING THE RELIEF REQUESTED HEREIN.

15 The evidence presented to date in connection with the Verified Complaint and this
 16 Motion establishes that HPT is likely to succeed on the merits of its claims.

17 As detailed herein, Defendants’ have misappropriated HPT’s code and incorporated it
 18 into the products and software it is developing and that they are planning to release on October
 19 31, 2017. There is exact duplication of HPT parameter names (character per character, including
 20 abbreviations) showcased in Defendants’ own software. Defendants have copied HPT’s
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

1 licensing and have publicly admitted to hacking and reversing HPT's software for their own
 2 benefit.

3 It is highly likely that Defendants' soon to be released products and software are derived
 4 from, based upon and contain HPT's proprietary code and information. It is highly likely that
 5 without having misappropriated HPT's proprietary code and information that Defendants would
 6 be unable to launch a competitive product. Furthermore, the similarities outlined herein and
 7 identical parameters support a very strong inference that Defendants' products and software are
 8 based on HPT's code and proprietary information.
 9

10 Consequently, HPT's claims for (i) violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act
 11 ("CFAA") arising under 18 U.S.C. §1030; (ii) violation of the Defend Trade Secrets Act
 12 ("DTSA"), 18 U.S.C. §1836 et seq.; (iii) misappropriation of trade secrets arising under the
 13 Washington Uniform Trade Secrets Act, RCW 19.108; (iv) violation of the Illinois Trade Secrets
 14 Act, 765 ILCS 1065/1 et. seq.; (v) unfair competition under the Washington Consumer
 15 Protection Act, RCW 19.86.020; (vi) unfair competition under the Illinois Consumer Fraud and
 16 Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 ILCS 505/1 et. seq.; (vii) breach of contract; and (viii)
 17 tortious interference with prospective economic relations, are all well founded in law and fact.
 18

19 Here, there is no harm to Defendants by virtue of the relief requested herein and that HPT
 20 will suffer irreparable harm if Defendants' conduct is not restrained. It is indisputable that the
 21 release or sale of a competitive product containing misappropriated confidential, proprietary and
 22 trade secret information of HPT is improper and unlawful. HPT's investigation of these matters
 23 based on publicly available information alone gives rise to their conclusion that Defendants'
 24 soon to be released product and software is based on, is derived from and contains HPT's
 25 confidential, proprietary and trade secret information.

1 It is indisputable that if Defendants' soon to be released product and software is based on,
 2 is derived from and contains HPT's confidential, proprietary and trade secret information, then
 3 HPT will suffer irreparable harm in the absence of the requested relief. If Defendants are
 4 permitted to go to market and exhibit a competing product at an industry-wide trade show which
 5 is based on, derived from and contains HPT's confidential, proprietary and trade secret
 6 information, then HPT's entire business is at risk. The very survival of HPT is at stake if
 7 Defendants are permitted to sell and release a competitive product which is based on, derived
 8 from and contains HPT's confidential, proprietary and trade secret information.
 9

10 Moreover, it is indisputable that Defendants will not suffer any harm in having to wait to
 11 release and sell their product and software to the public. Defendants release and sale of their
 12 competitive product should not be permitted unless and until Defendants can demonstrate that
 13 their soon to be released product and software is not based on or derived from, and does not
 14 contain HPT's confidential, proprietary and trade secret information. What is being threatened
 15 to be released and sold are competitive products and software to HPT, which is based on and
 16 derived from HPT's software. The losses to HPT if Defendants' software and product is publicly
 17 released cannot be ascertained and are unknown. It is difficult to imagine harm that could be
 18 more irreparable as HPT's entire business is in jeopardy.
 19

20 Furthermore, it is not only HPT that will suffer irreparable harm, harm will also be
 21 inflicted upon all of its employees, who will be substantially impacted if HPT's business is
 22 compromised. There can be no doubt that HPT has demonstrated a high likelihood of very
 23 serious and irreparable harm.
 24
 25

1 **C. THE BALANCE OF EQUITIES TIPS SHARPLY IN HPT'S FAVOR AND**
2 **THE REQUESTED RELIEF IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.**

3 If Defendants, and those acting in concert with them, are enjoined as requested, they will
4 only be prevented from (unlawfully) publicly releasing and disseminating something that is not
5 theirs and which is based on, derived from and contains HPT's confidential, proprietary and
6 trade secret information. Conversely, if HPT's product and software has been misappropriated by
7 Defendants which HPT has strong evidence to suggest is the case, HPT stands to lose its entire
8 business if the relief is not granted and Defendants, and those acting in concert with him, are not
9 enjoined from publicly releasing and selling the soon to be released competitive product which is
10 based on, derived from and contains HPT's confidential, proprietary and trade secret
11 information.

13 Finally, HPT has not unreasonably delayed in filing this motion. (*See Cybermedia, Inc.*
14 *v. Symantec Corp.*, 19 F. Supp. 2d 1070, 1078 (N.D. Cal. 1998) (three month delay to investigate
15 not an unreasonable delay)). HPT learned of the anticipated launch of the competitive product on
16 September 25, 2017 – a few short weeks ago and immediately commenced its investigation.
17 Thereafter, HPT immediately brought this motion. Accordingly, the balance of equities tips
18 strongly in HPT's favor. Finally, the potential devastation of HPT's business and loss of jobs
19 implicate a strong interest by the public in granting the requested relief.

20 **D. CONCLUSION**

21 Because the factors weighs in favor of granting the relief requested by HPT, HPT
22 respectfully requests that the Court enter the proposed order attached hereto.

23 WHEREFORE, HP TUNERS, LLC, respectfully prays for the following relief:
24

1 1. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
2 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, releasing competitive
3 products or software to HPT;

4 2. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
5 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, selling any competitive
6 products or software to HPT;

7 3. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
8 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, releasing any products
9 or services using HPT's proprietary code to any third party;

10 4. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
11 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, selling any products or
12 services using HPT's proprietary code to any third party;

13 5. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
14 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, releasing any products
15 or software that is based on or derived from HPT's software or products;

16 6. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
17 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, selling any products or
18 software that is based on or derived from HPT's software or products;

19 7. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
20 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, exhibiting at the 2017
21 SEMA Show in Las Vegas, Nevada from October 31, 2017 to November 3, 2017;

22 8. That Defendants, as well as each of their agents, and all persons acting in concert
23 with any of them, be immediately restrained from, directly or indirectly, engaging in any

1 activities related to the planning, design, development, coding or creation of any software or
2 products that in any way uses, relies upon, is based on or discloses any of HPT's confidential,
3 proprietary or trade secret information, including but not limited to source code;

4 9. That the Court issue an order to show cause as to why the requested preliminary
5 injunction should not issue; and

6 10. For such other and further relief as this Court deems necessary and appropriate.

7 Respectfully submitted this 12th day of October, 2017.

8 HEURLIN, POTTER, JAHN, LEATHAM,
9 HOLTMANN & STOKER, P.S.

10 s/ Stephen G. Leatham

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15 Attorneys for Plaintiff HP Tuners, LLC

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I hereby certify that on October 12, 2017, I caused the foregoing to be electronically filed
3 with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing
4 to the following:

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